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SIXTEEN PAGES

If those who bid for the property of the Whisky Trust include much of a sum for good will, they will be paying for that which the "combine" has not had for years.

If the astonishingly large sale and use of bicycles the past few months will stimulate the good roads movement, as the champions of the bicycle claim, the end of the era of almost impassable roads is near at hand.

The Chicago press has declared against the proposition of an outside member of the Illinois Legislature to make Chicago practically a State by itself, and some of them bluntly advise the buccolic statesman to mind his own business.

It should be possible for some good citizen like Mr. Chandler to get on a school commissioner as Mr. Russe has been and is likely to be. He has been but the echo of the element which has increased the city debt and which has adopted a policy of wastefulness and favoritism.

For the nine months ending March 31 the expenditures of the government exceeded its revenues by nearly \$37,000,000. As the receipts during the next three months are expected to equal the above represents approximately the deficit for the fiscal year.

Those who doubt the general tendency of the Christian world toward unity will find every church hearing or claiming the name observing Easter. Fifty or seventy-five years ago every Protestant church except the Episcopalians would have denounced such observance as a wicked device of the Church of Rome.

There is a very general suspicion that the rapid advance of the price of crude oil is a device of the Standard monopoly to crush out the growing competition. It at least may be assumed that the Standard knows what it is about, and those who do not will be safer to keep out of oil for the present, or it may reach that uncomfortable temperature known as boiling.

Governor Matthews is to be commended for his prompt action in taking steps to have the dam and lock in the Wabash river near Mt. Carmel, Ill., removed. As the obstruction completely excludes fish from the upper Wabash and its tributaries during the spawning season the effect in a short time would be to destroy the stock of fish in all these streams, a thing that should not be tolerated.

The suggestion that the President is exempt from the payment of income tax under the clause of the Constitution which provides that his salary shall not be increased or diminished during his term of office is on a line with most of the technical twaddle of the day. The meaning of the constitutional provision is too plain for argument, and it is equally plain that an income tax does come within it.

The county clerk who issues a marriage license which involves a girl of fifteen years of age without her parents' consent, and the minister or magistrate who performs the ceremony of marriage involving such a minor should be made to suffer some penalty which law should provide. Such cases happen in Indiana every week, and it may be added, such marriages usually lead to wretchedness and are the most prolific source of divorce or separation.

As an immediate effect of the increase in the price of beef in the Eastern cities a large increase in the consumption of fish is noted. At this season of the year the supply of fresh fish in the seaboard cities is practically inexhaustible, and they afford an excellent substitute for meat and cost less than half as much. In the interior cities, where ocean fish are now received in fine condition, they cost more than they do East, but still less than the best cuts of beef.

Less than three years ago Perry caused a great sensation by just missing a successful train robbery. He was captured, tried and sent to the penitentiary. While in the penitentiary he made two attempts to escape, but, because he feigned insanity, was transferred to an insane asylum, from which he easily devised means of escape. And so Mr. Perry is free to take up his profession; but what can be said in defense of physicians who are thus imposed upon by a person playing crazy?

The charge made in the New York Presbyterian that Dr. Parkhurst had been teaching the pernicious and heretical doctrine of pantheism in a magazine article addressed to women was not supported by specifications, but the Journal has carefully examined the article, presumably meant and is free to say

that it discovers nothing pantheistic. On the contrary, the Doctor's remarks are very innocuous, consisting as they do of the commonplace adage far from original assurance to women that their only business in the world is to marry and rear children. Incidentally, no doubt, he will permit them to assist him in reform work as he did in New York, but for the most part they must attend to the duty he has laid down for them under pain of his severest displeasure.

THE SEASON OF NEW LIFE.

The human creature, as well as the inanimate flowers of the field, feels the revivifying influence of the resurrection season. This is manifest in many outward forms. The arraying of the body in fresh attire is not a mere vanity, but the outgrowth of a wish to be in physical harmony with nature; the spring bonnet is a blossom not less natural than the dandelion of the wayside; the

housecleaning and renovating a part of the universal tendency to discard the old and put on the new. What is true in the physical sense has its counterpart on the spiritual side. Unless the mind and soul be dulled almost to extinction by devotion to sordid affairs they must feel an uplifting—a disposition to shake off burdens of care and look to brighter things. This may be due to the influence of the outer world, to the eternal miracle which year by year transforms a bleak and barren earth into a garden of beauty and bloom; but, again, it may be from within; it may be the feeble fluttering of divine aspirations choked and hidden for the most part under the weight of worldly interests. It was not chance that raised the Lord from His tomb at a time when inanimate nature wakes from its slumber and transfigures hill and vale. It may very well be that the spiritual instinct feels a corresponding quickening at this time and is disposed to shake off enthralling and corroding bonds.

Whatever be the cause, whether by force of nature's example or of innate grace, the fact remains that when the forest and field burst into the glory of leaf and flower the heart of man is most conscious of a wish to rise above the narrowing influences of his daily toil and breathe a freer, purer atmosphere.

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That this condition of affairs ever comes to anything better is a matter of hope. Aspiration to better things is a hopeful indication. Out of it may in time evolve a practice that will prove the theory—a life worth living in the world that now is, a resurrection of the soul from the dust and ashes of unmitigated commerce.

"THE SUBMERGED TENTH."

Those who regard themselves as reformers because they read pessimistic essays on "The Submerged Tenth" and apply the term to the whole country should get a copy of the special report of the Commissioner of Labor on the slums of Baltimore, Chicago, New York and Philadelphia, because it would show them that the submerged are in the large cities, and are not even one-tenth of the population, much less one-tenth of the inhabitants of the whole country. That report has just been printed, and contains many facts which upset the assumptions of those who evolve most of their assertions upon this subject from their imaginations.

The investigation of the experts of the Labor Bureau at Washington has extended only to the most marked slum localities in Baltimore, Chicago, New York and Philadelphia. In these plague spots they found 33,852 inhabitants. This is not the entire slum population in those cities, but that of the infested localities. The report contains several interesting features. As between the native and foreign born, the latter preponderates. In Baltimore 15.88 per cent. of the total population is foreign born, but in the slum districts 40.21 per cent. were born abroad. In New York 42.33 per cent. of the population is foreign born, while in the slums it is 62.58 per cent. of the whole number. In Chicago 40.98 per cent. of the population is of foreign birth; in the slums 75.51 per cent. were foreign. In Philadelphia 25.74 per cent. is foreign born, but in its slums that element constitutes 60.45 per cent. Illiteracy is also a marked feature of the slums. The illiterate in Chicago, for instance, is 4.63 per cent. of the whole, while in the slums they are 25.37 per cent. In New York 7.69 per cent. are illiterate, while in the slums they are 46.65 per cent. of the whole. In the whole city of Chicago the foreign-born voters are 50.62 per cent. of the whole; in the slums, 61.31 per cent. In New York the foreign-born voters are 49.93 per cent., but in the slum districts canvassed they are 62.44 per cent.

In regard to earnings the report contains a statement which will surprise many. The average earnings are the earnings of the people living in the slum districts of the cities canvassed are quite up to the earnings of the people generally and at large. Another fact which the canvass of the slums has developed is that no greater sickness prevails in

the districts canvassed than in other parts of the cities involved, and that "while most wretched conditions were found here and there, the small number of sick people discovered was a surprise to the canvassers."

In connection with the foregoing deductions, the report states that in New York there was a liquor saloon for each 200 inhabitants when the investigation was made, but in the district canvassed there was a saloon to every 129 persons. In Baltimore there was a saloon to every 229 persons in the city at large, but to every 105 persons in the slum district. In Chicago there was a saloon to every 212 persons, while in the slums there was one to every 127. The number of arrests made by the police in Chicago in 1903 was one in every eleven of its population, while in the slum section there was an arrest to every four inhabitants. The preponderance of lawlessness indicated by the figures which are given for Chicago is found in the other cities. From such facts it does not require much penetration to discover that illiteracy, intemperance and violence are the prolific causes of the submergence of the tenth or less in the large cities.

HE STILL LIVES.

Thirty years ago to-night Abraham Lincoln's earthly career was closed by the bullet of an assassin. Thirty years is a long period in a man's life—so long that to-day the number of people who remember that terrible event is small compared with those who cannot. And yet it would be safe to say that the people of this country know more of Lincoln than did those who were living during the years he was at the head of the American people. It would also be safe to say that, thirty years after, Abraham Lincoln is more talked of, more read about, more the object of affection and reverence than he was at the date of his assassination, or even of enthralling and corroding bonds.

Whatever be the cause, whether by force of nature's example or of innate grace, the fact remains that when the forest and field burst into the glory of leaf and flower the heart of man is most conscious of a wish to rise above the narrowing influences of his daily toil and breathe a freer, purer atmosphere.

Absorption in work from mercenary motives, or from mere habit, or because of supposed necessity, is a fault of